

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; December 14, 2000;
10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque**

In attendance:

Harriet Allen, USGS	Charles Lujan, San Juan Pueblo
Olga Boberg, USBR	William J. Miller, WJ Miller Engineering
Danielle Burke, USGS	Marc Sidlow, Corps
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC	Gail Stockton, Corps
Don Gallegos, Corps	Carole Thomas, USGS
Rhea Graham, NMISC	Leann Towne, USBR
Walter Hines, CH2M Hill/City of Albuquerque	Tim J. Ward, Department of CE-UNM
Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI of ASCE	Dave Wilkins, USGS
	Mark Yuska, USBR

- ❖ Gail Stockton began the meeting by presenting certificates of appreciation to Harriet Allen and Bill Miller for development of the URGWOM documentation.
- ❖ Leann Towne then led the meeting and asked Mark Yuska to review the status of URGWOM development and the activities of the Technical Team. Mark distributed a handout that is appended to the end of these notes. Only discussion and questions are summarized below.
 - There was discussion about the timing of the Technical Team presentation to the Rio Grande Compact Commission to discuss the results of tests of the URGWOM accounting model compared to daily Reclamation accounting programs currently in use.
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 - It was agreed that the **Technical Team will make a presentation on the accounting model tests to the Steering Committee at their January meeting**, comparing the 1995 and 1996 data and as much of the 2000 data as practical by that time. This would be used to help the Technical Team answer questions and clarify their presentation to the Compact Commission. The January presentation would also serve to meet the Quality Control Plan requirement for a technical review of the accounting model.
 - The presentation would be made to the Engineer Advisors at their February meeting and to the Compact Commission at their March meeting, allowing time for the Technical Team to complete the tests on the accounting model on the 2000 data as requested. The Engineer-Advisors asked for this presentation last year to demonstrate that the accounting model works, before they approve it for use.
 - The Bureau of Reclamation will run both methods of water accounting for the 2000 data and hope to use the new water accounting model in 2001, once it is approved.
 - Rhea Graham asked why the retroactive water accounting run on the 1999 data has not been done. Mark responded that the 1999 accounting is already in the books and has been approved, but the comparison of methods requested by the Compact Commission can be accomplished using the 2000 data.
 - The year 2000 runs will be made with both methods and will help validate the accounting model.

- Once URGWOM is available online, anyone will be able to compare the output from both methods (daily programs vs. URGWOM) for flows from Abiquiu, Cochiti, and Jemez Canyon.
- USBR will implement the new sediment methods recently developed by CADSWES in the accounting model.
 - A question was asked whether sediment calculations affect other parts of URGWOM. Mark responded that sediment storage calculations also affect the water operations model.
 - Bill Miller asked when the next sediment survey is scheduled or when the most recent one was done. The most recent survey was done in 1999.
 - Tim Ward asked if new methods of calculating sediment would be applied to the Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs. Mark responded that, while sediment surveys are done, the Bureau does not always calculate and account for the sediment coming into the reservoirs.
 - It may be an issue for the Water Operations Review to evaluate the effects of water operations alternatives that affect sediment buildup in Elephant Butte, but the sediment calculations in the accounting model do not do this.
 - Bill Miller explained that the sediment inflow calculations were developed for a real-time accounting of storage capacity lost to sediment accumulation for a more accurate method of accounting of water in storage.
- Conrad Keyes asked if the cooperating agencies will approve the draft Quality Control Plan before the end of the calendar year.
 - After discussion, it was agreed that the revised Quality Control Plan would be e-mailed to all cooperating agencies with a notice that the Steering Committee intends to approve it at their January meeting.
 - After the Steering Committee approves the Plan, a single document will be passed among the cooperating agencies for signature.
- In a discussion of groundwater flows in URGWOM, it was stressed that groundwater is calculated based on gradient between the river water surface and water surface in the riverside drains, but the method is limited because data is limited.
 - The influence of groundwater on flows will be important for the planning model to be used for the Water Operations Review.
 - Dave Wilkins is developing a method to establish a relationship between gage height and leakage to use to calculate groundwater for URGWOM. Forecasts of flow, leakage, and groundwater in URGWOM can be incorporated into the planning model.
- Mark reported that the IBWC (US) is concerned that URGWOM cannot preserve a two-hour timestep within the daily timestep used in the model. IBWC bases their flood control release decisions on a two-hour timestep. **The Technical Team has written a submodel to do this but needs to discuss with IBWC(US) how to obtain or develop daily curve data to make this all work with URGWOM.**
- Budget issues:
 - The USBR budget was cut 15% across-the-board.

- The WARSMP budget for URGWOM was reduced because this is the last year of a three-year funding program for the Rio Grande.
- Other cooperating agencies providing funding include the City of Albuquerque, Department of the Interior matching funds, and in-kind services from the NMISC and IBWC.
- It was agreed that the verification results from URGWOM would be presented to the Technical Review Committee. Tim Ward recommended that the Steering Committee should set a goal to establish when URGWOM is considered a “good” model when comparing forecasted flows with actuals.
- ❖ Gail distributed a map of the basin with the tribal lands identified. She reminded everyone that **anyone collecting data or participating in a field trip must request permission of the pueblo or tribe before going on tribal land.** The request should be made in a letter to the governor or chairman, in advance of the trip, and the letter should be carried along on the trip. On the day of the trip, visitors should stop in at the pueblo or tribal government office for any permit or specific instructions before they go anywhere else on tribal land. Visitors may be accompanied by a tribal representative, at their discretion.
- ❖ The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on January 11, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Albuquerque District of the Corps of Engineers.

December, 2000—STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES

People:

- Mark Yuska has been at USBR acting as the Resources Management Division Chief December 4-16.
- Brad Vickers, thru Tetra Tech, has had no funding yet for FY2001, but we just got some in under the wire prior to the December 18th end-of-contract date.
- Everyone on the tech team has another week or so use or lose A/L they will use between now and January 13.

Activities:

- Setting up Accounting Model to use at USBR for 2001 accounting.
- CADSWES is adding the new sediment methods to Corps reservoirs to make the accounting up-to-date.
- Implementing new RiverWare Methods to replace surface water computations (rules) we currently use to handle physical processes like river evaporation.
- Coordinating a new method that sets negative outflows computed in reaches to zero (where diversions or losses cause deficits). The balance goes into an unidentified loss slot.
- Massaging the leakage/drain returns in the middle valley to improve the agreement with downstream flows. To optimize drain returns, multiplying factors were determined and applied to individual reaches (no longer using one drain return percentage for all reaches).
- Experimented with the hourly timestep flood operations of Caballo, and it looks like it will work. Need to discuss how it will be used though.
- Still troubleshooting and fixing accounting rules. Brad has sent a model for Don and Dennis to try out.

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- Reviewed USGS gage heights, datum corrections, and datum elevations and met with USGS Data Section staff to determine correct gage heights and datums.
- Recalculated gage heights and entered new gage heights into DSS.
- Recalculated river leakage values.
- Prepared USGS URGWOM budget requirements for USBR funding.
- First verification results from 1/1/98 through 9/30/99 look promising.

Meetings:

- The team took a field trip from Isleta to headwaters of Elephant Butte November 14-15. The informative and fruitful trip was accented by Vehicle breakdowns.
- We will implement a standard weekly or biweekly technical team meeting at a time/day-of-week to be determined. This will improve communications with those not working in the Corps office.
- Marc and Mark will participate in a WaRSMP/RiverWare development coordination meeting at CADSWES December 18-19, presenting developmental needs, and sharing development and costs with other basins. Steve Bowser, the new USBR Planning/Team Leader will join them.

Issues requiring Steering Committee Considerations:

- We are dealing with a possible budget shortfall in the neighborhood of \$70K for FY01. USBR is currently trying to find money to make it up.
- Coordination and involvement with URGWOPS integration has improved, but we need even better prodding and more focused attention.